



Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Health Consultant

...Keeping CT School Nurses
Informed and Involved!

Health-Related Legislative Changes for School Year 2009-10

The following is an overview of Public Act 09-155, a brief explanation of implications for schools and a link to the full legislative language.

Public Act 09-155, *An Act Concerning the Use of Asthmatic Inhalers and Epinephrine Auto-injectors While at School.*

- The Act requires the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) to adopt regulations to permit children diagnosed with either asthma or an allergic condition to retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors at all times while attending school, provided a written authorization for self-administration of medication signed by the child's parent or guardian and an authorized prescriber is submitted to the school nurse.
- This Act, as amended, requires local and regional boards of education to make available on either the board's or each school's Web site, the district's plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies. If such Web sites do not exist, the board must make the plan publicly available by some other means that it selects.
- The Act also requires boards to provide notice about the plans along with the written statement about pesticide applications used by the district under Section 10-231c of the Connecticut General Statutes, to parents and guardians. School superintendents must attest annually to the CSDE that their districts are implementing these plans.

Additionally, Public Act 09-155 amends Section 10-212a of the Connecticut General Statutes and adds licensed athletic trainers **employed by a school district** to the list of individuals who are permitted to administer medication to students under the general supervision of a school nurse.

The CSDE has developed newly proposed regulations for Section 10-212a of the Connecticut General Statutes, therefore regulations pursuant to Public Act 09-155 will be incorporated into the proposed regulations and will be ready for implementation in the 2010-11 school year. Until such regulations are adopted, school districts cannot implement the new language for permission to retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors.

However, it is important to note that current regulations **allow** for students to self-administer medications while in school. Therefore, children diagnosed with either asthma or an allergic condition can retain possession of asthmatic inhalers and automatic pre-filled cartridge injectors at all times while attending school, as long as: (1) an authorized prescriber provides a written order for self administration; (2) there is written authorization from the student's parent or guardian; and (3) the school nurse has evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate. The full text for Public Act 09-155 can be found at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/Pa/pdf/2009PA-00155-R00SB-00755-PA.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knutson, School Health Consultant at 860-807-2108 or Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov.



Special Points of Interest:

- *Health-Related Legislative Changes for School Year 2009-10*
- *Employment Opportunity - Associate Educational Consultant (Part-time /Durational)*
- *Revised Medical Statement Forms for School Nutrition Programs*
- *Professional Development - Sickle Cell Disease*
- *Health/Nurse Consultant Meeting*

Connecticut State Department of Education: Reminders and Updates on H1N1 Influenza Guidance for Schools

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) along with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has developed guidance for school nurses regarding H1N1 influenza which is available at http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/lib/ctfluwatch/h1n1/school_nurse_guidance.pdf. The CSDE has also reviewed and outlined some additional recommendations that need to be considered in the event of H1N1 influenza outbreaks. These include:

1. **Reporting School Closures:** School districts are asked to report all school closings due to H1N1 influenza to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the CSDE Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2604&Q=322396>. The CDC provides updates on school closures to the CSDE as they are reported.
2. **Attendance Policies:** School districts need to review and evaluate attendance policies such as rewards for perfect attendance. These practices may encourage ill students to attend school rather than follow the guidance of encouraging ill students to stay home.
3. **Waivers for the 180 day and 900 hours of instruction requirement pursuant to Section 10-16 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.):** Waivers will be considered by CSDE on an individual, case-by-case basis. However, school districts must exhaust all other options to make up the days before June 30, 2010, (e.g., eliminating vacations, holidays and extending the school year) prior to requesting a waiver. Given the possibility of additional waves of H1N1 influenza outbreaks in the spring, districts should not request waivers until all options have been exhausted.
4. **Outbreaks of H1N1 influenza during the state testing period:** The Bureau of Student Assessment at the CSDE is prepared to address both mild and severe disruptions should large number of students be absent or extended school closures occur during the standardized testing period. In the event of either of these situations, the CSDE will provide technical assistance and guidance to school districts as needed.
5. **Continuity of Learning:** The issue of continuity of learning in individual districts should be considered in the event of prolonged school closures. Many school districts already use technology to post homework and lesson activities (e.g., School Notes, district Web sites, and Moodle) and these venues may be useful to districts as they address continuity of learning in the event of school closures.

The full document may be found on the DPH Web site at http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/lib/ctfluwatch/h1n1/schools/Updates_guidance_schools_Oct09.pdf.

Revised Medical Statement Forms for School Nutrition Programs

Based on new guidance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the CSDE has recently revised the medical statements for children with special dietary needs. These new forms are dated October 2009. They include more specific information regarding the child's medical condition and special dietary needs to ensure that the school nutrition program can make any appropriate dietary accommodations. They also include an option for parental release of information to allow for better communication between the medical provider and the school regarding the child's special nutrition needs.

The revised medical statements are at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320674> – scroll down to “Accommodating Special Dietary Needs in Child Nutrition Programs” or the direct links below.

Medical Statement for Children with Disabilities

PDF: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Nutrition/MedicalDisabilitiesCN.pdf>

Word: http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/word_docs/DEPS/Nutrition/MedicalDisabilitiesCN.doc

Medical Statement for Children without Disabilities

PDF: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Nutrition/MedicalNoDisabilitiesCN.pdf>

Word: http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/word_docs/DEPS/Nutrition/MedicalNoDisabilitiesCN.doc

Schools are not required to use these forms. However, any alternate form used by the school or district **must contain all the required information** indicated on the CSDE form. The medical statement must be completed in its entirety and all required information must be provided **before** the school food service program can make any meal modifications or substitutions.

Statements already on file this year for student dietary accommodations are acceptable and do not need to be redone using the new forms. However, please begin using the revised forms for any new requests for student dietary accommodations and for annual updates of any existing student records in future school years.

Guidance on accommodating special dietary needs is contained in the CSDE manual, *Accommodating Special Dietary Needs: Guidance for School Nutrition Programs*, at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320674>.



CSDE Employment Opportunity

ASSOCIATE EDUCATION CONSULTANT - PART-TIME/DURATIONAL HOURLY RATE: \$43.74

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is currently recruiting for a part-time, durational Associate Education Consultant within the Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services & Adult Education. **This part-time position is 17 hours per week and will expire on June 30, 2010. This position does not carry any state benefits.**

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:

Assists in planning and executing programs related to the coordination of H1N1 prevention strategies and vaccinations in Grades PK-12 schools.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES:

- Implements, coordinates, and evaluates activities related to H1N1 planning and implementation for schools;
- Maintains active liaison with CSDE and Department of Public Health (DPH) and serves as nursing/public health consultant to Grades PK-12 school based vaccination sites;
- May inspect and evaluate health care delivery in school health rooms, school based health clinics and community based nursing agencies for compliance with state and federal vaccination regulations;
- Maintain knowledge of national and state resources and monitor H1N1 information on associated Web sites (CDC, DPH and CSDE);
- Evaluates requests from schools asking to be included in the H1N1 vaccination program and offer consultation regarding interpretation of programs, policies and regulations;
- Plans, reviews and evaluates on a regional basis, the coordination, assessment and monitoring of H1N1 school vaccination services;
- Develops and conducts technical assistance, outreach, presentations and front-line consumer education related to H1N1 and other communicable disease outbreaks in schools;
- Assesses safety and quality of client care provided;
- Prepares and distributes relevant federal and state forms and reports; and
- Performs related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge, Skill and Ability:

- Considerable knowledge of standards of care and service delivery in school health, school based health clinics, community based nursing agencies and public health;
- Considerable knowledge of principles and practices pertinent to community processes;
- Considerable interpersonal skills;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to plan, implement and evaluate programs; and
- Ability to collect and analyze data.

Minimum Experience and Training Required: An earned advanced degree and five (5) years of relevant professional experience or in lieu thereof, an equivalent combination of experience and training as approved by the appointing authority.

Special Requirements: Must possess and retain a current license as a registered professional nurse in Connecticut; and may be required to travel.

Preferred Experience and Training: Four (4) years of experience as a professional registered nurse including supervision, consultation, education or administration; and at least two of those years in school health or in public health nursing.

The Department encourages those applicants who do not meet the stated qualifications but who believe they possess equivalent qualifications, to submit, in addition to their resumes, written statements including how their background and experience qualify them for the position.

Application Procedure: Interested candidates should reference announcement #706, submit a letter of application and resume with details of experience and training, three letters of recommendation and a Resume Supplement/Applicant Data Form (Form HR-RS) which may be obtained from the Department of Education website at <http://www.sde.ct.gov> to: **Cheryl Resha, Education Manager, Bureau of Health/Nutrition Family Services & Adult Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457. Tel. # 860-807-2070.** *Applications must be postmarked no later than the closing date listed below.* **All required documents must be submitted to be considered for interview.**

Closing date for applications: November 19, 2009

Anticipated date of employment: Immediate Upon Selection



Professional Development Opportunities

Promoting Success in the School Environment for Students with Sickle Cell Disease

A free educational program for school personnel including nurses, teachers, social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors and administrators, to promote awareness about Sickle Cell Disease.

When: Monday, November 16, 2009

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Dinner at 5:30 p.m.)

Location: Connecticut Children's Medical Center (Garden level - conf. rooms C and D)

Registration:

- By phone - Please call 860-545-9296 and follow the prompts to register for a course. Please leave your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, school name and state that you are registering for the Sickle Cell Conference.
- By e-mail - Please send an e-mail to hdtc@connecticutchildrens.org with the subject line: Sickle Cell Conference and include your name address, phone number, e-mail address and school name.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Caperino at 860-545-9630 or 860-545-9374.

Health/Nurse Consultants Meeting

Calling all nurses who work in child care and early childhood settings!!

The Connecticut Nurses' Association is sponsoring their first Child Care Health/Nurse Consultant Professional Organization meeting on **Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at 1:00 p.m.**

Connecticut's 1,600 plus child care programs are all required to have a nurse/health consultant. Infant and toddler programs have the benefit of a health/nurse consultant in their programs weekly and the November 2008 state regulations requires preschool and school age health consultants to make quarterly visits. Through networking, and sharing of ideas, strategies, and resources, we can all support the health and safety in child care.

If you are unable to attend, please send an e-mail to K.sandor@comcast.net to be added to the list serve. Directors, administrators, early childhood leaders, please forward this information to your nurse/health consultants, school nurses, and other child care personnel.



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School Nurse Cadre Workshops

The Cadre is a select group of school nurse leaders from local school districts, Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), local health departments, and state agencies. As trained facilitators, they are committed to providing quality professional development to promote student health and academic achievement. These programs are sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in collaboration with the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, RESCs, State Education Resource Center, local school districts and local health departments.

Workshops provided by the Cadre include: Asthma Management for Schools; Documentation - Implications in School Health; and Understanding 504.

For additional information and workshop topics, please access the CSDE Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/Prodev.pdf>.

Please e-mail Stephanie Knutson at Stephanie.knutson@ct.gov with requests for the nursing cadre professional development opportunities.

Nondiscrimination Statement

The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Affirmative Action Administrator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543, 860-807-2071.